

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: ERICH KIESL TO BE CSU CANDIDATE FOR LORD MAYOR OF
MUNICH

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY. IN SEVEN HOUR MARATHON SESSION
APRIL 30, MUNICH CSU NOMINATED ERICH KIESL, MDL, STATE
SECRETARY IN BAVARIAN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, AS ITS CANDIDATE
FOR LORD MAYOR IN 1978. CSU NOMINEES FOR MUNICH CITY COUNCIL
ELECTIONS, WHICH ARE ALSO TO BE HELD MARCH 5, 1978, WERE ALSO
ELECTED. KIESL AND MUNICH CSU PRESENTED IMAGE OF UNITY AND
PURPOSE WHICH CONTRASTS SHARPLY WITH PRESENT DISARRAY IN MUNICH
SPD. END SUMMARY.

2. IN MARKED CONTRAST TO THE BADLY FRACTURED MUNICH SPD,
MUNICH CSU PRESENTED PUBLIC IMAGE OF UNITY AND PURPOSE
IN ITS ELECTION CONVENTION APRIL 30. CSU LORD MAYOR CANDIDATE
KIESL AND HIS ALLIES HAD OBVIOUSLY COMPILED A CAREFULLY
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BALANCED SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR MUNICH CITY COUNCIL BEFORE THE
CONVENTION. THESE CANDIDATES WERE SELECTED AND RANK-ORDERED
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR VOTE-GETTING POWER RATHER THAN THEIR
POPULARITY WITHIN THE CSU. NONE OF THE PRE-SELECTED CANDIDATES
FAILED TO RECEIVE A MAJORITY AT CONVENTION, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL
WERE AWARDED SIGNIFICANTLY FEWER VOTES THAN THEIR COLLEAGUES.

3. IN ACCEPTANCE SPEECH, KIESL ASKED HIS FELLOW PARTY MEMBERS TO MAKE CSU "THE LEADING POWER IN MUNICH'S CITY HALL."
(COMMENT: KIESL CAREFULLY AVOIDED POSTULATING GOAL OF ABSOLUTE CSU MAJORITY IN CITY HALL. END COMMENT)
PERHAPS MOST SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF GENERAL PROGRAM PUT FORWARD BY KIESL WAS HIS EMPHASIS ON EFFORTS AIMED AT REVERSING CITY'S GRADUALLY DECLINING POPULATION TREND. HE ADVOCATED DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES WHICH WOULD PREVENT MIGRATION OF INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES FROM MUNICH AS WELL AS MEASURES DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE NEW ENTERPRISES TO LOCATE HERE. HE ASSUMED THAT PEOPLES' NATURAL PREFERENCE FOR LIVING CLOSE TO THEIR PLACES OF WORK WOULD ASSURE REVERSAL OF PRESENT POPULATION TRENDS.

4. KIESL DELIVERED SLASHING ATTACK ON MUNICH SPD, CENTER-PIECE OF WHICH WAS CONTENTION THAT SPD HERE WAS NO REPEAT NO LONGER THE "SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC" PARTY IT HAS BEEN IN PAST. TRUE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, HE ASSERTED, HAVE EITHER BEEN DRIVEN OUT OF PARTY OR HAVE THEMSELVES WITHDRAWN INTO "INTERNAL IMMIGRATION."
"

TO BUTTRESS THIS CONTENTION, KIESL QUOTED RECENTLY PUBLISHED LETTER FROM LONG-TIME SPD MODERATE CITY COUNCILMAN PREISSINGER TO NEW SPD LAND CHAIRMAN ROTHMUND, ALLEGING THAT MUNICH SPD CHAIRMAN AND LIKELY SPD CANDIDATE FOR LORD MAYOR MAX VON HECKEL IS "A PRISONER OF THE LEFT ULTRAS."

5. KIESL ALSO TOOK SWIPE AT PARA IN MUNICH SPD'S DRAFT ELECTION PROGRAM ADVOCATING EXTENSION OF FRANCHISE TO ALL FOREIGNERS WHO HAVE LIVED MORE THAN FIVE YEARS IN FRG. HE CLAIMED THAT CITIZENSHIP AND RIGHT TO VOTE ARE CLOSELY INTERTWINED UNDER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FRG BASIC LAW AS WELL AS IN ALL OTHER DEMOCRACIES AND SHOULD REMAIN SO.

6. MUNICH FDP FUNCTIONARIES WERE PORTRAYED BY KIESL AS SERVING, IN FINAL ANALYSIS, "THE ULTRA LEFT." HE CALLED ON THEM TO REDISCOVER THEIR LIBERAL PRINCIPLES.

7. COMMENT: SERIOUS OBSERVERS HERE AGREE THAT CSU COULD BECOME STRONGEST PARTY IN MUNICH CITY COUNCIL IN 1978. CONGEN DOES NOT REPEAT NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF CSU OBTAINING THIN MAJORITY (41 OR SO OF 80 SEATS) IN CITY COUNCIL.

8. HAD HE BEEN NOMINATED FOR REELECTION, INCUMBENT MUNICH LORD MAYOR KRONAWITTER, WHO REPRESENTS MODERATE WING OF SPD, WOULD HAVE BEEN ODDS ON FAVORITE, IN CONGEN'S VIEW. GIVEN VON HECKEL'S IDENTIFICATION IN PUBLIC MIND WITH LEFT WING OF MUNICH SPD, CONGEN BELIEVES KIESL SHOULD BE REGARDED AS FRONT RUNNER AT THIS POINT.
BETTS

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